## CLAIMS

I claim:

1.      A method of controlling traffic in the elevator system, comprising the steps of:

assigning a plurality of elevator cars to respective sectors;

5              determining a handling capacity of the elevator system; and

selectively overriding the sector assignment of at least one of the cars responsive to a destination indication from at least one passenger when the determined handling capacity is within a selected range.

10    2.      The method of claim 1, including initially assigning a car to the one passenger based upon the sector to which the destination indication belongs and then reassigning the passenger to a different car that has a departure time that is earlier than the initially assigned car.

15    3.      The method of claim 2, including reassigning the passenger to the different car if the handling capacity is within the selected range.

4.      The method of claim 2, including reassigning the passenger to the different car if the destination indication is within a sector to which the different car is assigned.

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5.      The method of claim 2, including repeatedly reassigning the passenger to a different car that has an earlier departure time than a currently assigned car.

6.      The method of claim 1, including determining a value of the handling capacity

25    and comparing the determined value to a selected threshold.

7.      The method of claim 6, including using a randomly generated number from within a selected range as the threshold.

30    8.      The method of claim 1, including overriding the sector assignment when the handling capacity is below a selected threshold.

9.    The method of claim 8, wherein the selected threshold corresponds to a heavy traffic volume and the capacity is near a maximum capacity.

10.     An elevator system, comprising:

a plurality of elevator cars; and

a controller that determines a handling capacity of the elevator system,
5    determines a destination of at least one passenger and selectively overrides the sector
assignment of at least one of the cars responsive to the determined destination when
the determined handling capacity is within a selected range.

11.     The system of claim 10, wherein the controller determines departure times of
10    each of the cars from a base floor, the controller initially assigns a car to the one
passenger based upon the sector to which the destination indication belongs and
wherein the controller reassigns the passenger to a different car that has a departure
time that is earlier than the initially assigned car.

15    12.     The system of claim 11, wherein the controller reassigns the passenger to the
different car if the handling capacity is within the selected range.

13.     The system of claim 11, wherein the controller reassigns the passenger to the
different car if the destination indication is within a sector to which the different car is
20    assigned.

14:     The system of claim 11, wherein the controller repeatedly reassigns the
passenger to a different car that has an earlier departure time than a currently assigned
car.
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15.     The system of claim 10, wherein the controller determines a value of the
handling capacity and compares the determined value to a selected threshold.

16.     The system of claim 15, wherein the controller uses a randomly generated
30    number from within a selected range as the threshold.

17.     The system of claim 10, wherein the controller overrides the sector assignment when the handling capacity is below a selected threshold.

18.     The system of claim 17, wherein the selected threshold corresponds to a heavy
5    traffic volume and the capacity is near a maximum capacity.

19.     The system of claim 10, including a primary destination entry location outside of the elevator cars that is useable by a passenger to provide a destination indication and wherein the controller prioritizes the travel of the passenger based upon whether
10    the passenger entered the destination indication at the primary entry location.

20.     The system of claim 10, including a display that provides passengers with an indication of the car to which they are assigned.

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